

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

July 12, 2000

Maple Hall
La Conner, Washington

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Ruckelshaus, Chair	Seattle
Larry Cassidy	Vancouver
Brenda McMurray	Yakima
James Peters	Olympia
John Roskelley	Spokane
Steve Meyer	Executive Director, Conservation Commission
Jeff Koenings	Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jerry Alb	Designee, Department of Transportation
Craig Partridge	Designee, Department of Natural Resources

<i>A tape of the meeting's proceedings is retained by IAC as the formal record of the meeting.</i>
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Call to Order

Chair Ruckelshaus called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. The agenda was approved.

Topic #1: Review and Approval of Minutes

No minutes were presented at this meeting; they will be available in September.

Topic #2: Management and Status Reports

Director's Report: Director Johnson congratulated and reminded the Board members and audience that the SRFB is quickly approaching its one-year anniversary on July 15. In the past year the Board has held twelve regular meetings, five workshops, and five tours in locations around the state. It has developed a mission statement, policies and procedures, and is in the process of finalizing the "roles" document. The Board has also ratified IRT grant funds, inherited the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office grant projects, completed one SRFB grant cycle, and is in the middle of a second one. The Board has worked very closely with the lead entities, citizen committees and technical groups to build strong relationships and jointly define the expectations of each partner in the process of habitat recovery for salmon. This work is a strong foundation for the coming funding decisions by the Board.

There will be a report from the nearshore meeting sent to the Board shortly.

Staff has been working with the Governor's office and NWPPC on coordination issues.

In September there will be a business meeting on Friday the 15th. Possible items on the agenda include: hatchery reform project report, NWPPC work and presentation (relationship of the SRFB to the NWPPC), programmatic updates, and possible tour on the 14th.

Financial Report: Debra Wilhelmi gave the update on the first year of fiscal activity by the Board. Debra had provided the People For Salmon (PFS) contract for the Board's information. The chair questioned whether there was a provision in the contract on how to involve citizens in the salmon recovery efforts. The lead entities bring in many citizens but not necessarily the overall citizen community.

A report is required by contract and Debra will make sure the citizen effort is highlighted. Chantal Stevens, PFS Executive Director, was present at the meeting. There was a long discussion on details of the PFS contract. Ms. Stevens spoke to the Board and gave a quick overview of what PFS is doing and the plans they have for public outreach.

Several Board members would like to see a more holistic effort for statewide salmon recovery education and outreach.

Project Manager Update: 73 of the 84 projects agreements are either in active status or out for signature. Staff is still working to finalize the 11 remaining contracts. Staff is continuing to revise the landowner agreement. They are also planning and coordinating the Engineered Log Jam and Large Woody Debris Monitoring Workshop with NMFS and WDFW staff. The chair encouraged one landowner agreement to be used by all state agencies.

Topic #3: GSRO Report

Chris Drivdahl gave the update from the GSRO. Curt Smitch is meeting with the Independent Science Panel (ISP) today to see if they would be able to be more involved in the revision of the Statewide Salmon Recovery Strategy. A copy of the response to the ISP's SSRS review was enclosed in the notebook information.

Salmon Recovery Scorecard – the Joint Cabinet had their first meeting updating on the scorecard efforts. Chris informed the Board that there are four separate scorecard elements that work on volunteer and education/outreach efforts. A volunteer strategy will not be easy to do but is crucial to the success of the effort.

Topic #4: Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG)

Shirley Solomon, chair of the Skagit Watershed Council (SWC), gave the LEAG update. Shirley was designated spokesperson for the LEAG at this meeting. The LEAG had a long meeting from 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on July 11. Eight LEAG members were represented at the meeting along with WDFW and IAC/SRFB staff. They began developing policies and procedures for this group. They realize they are representatives of the lead entities but do not represent the lead entities. John Sims was voted as chair of the LEAG and it was decided that there would be a revolving

spokesperson to give the updates to the SRFB. They had a long discussion on what lead entity responsibilities are. It was decided that a smaller workgroup would meet over the next couple weeks and develop a list of lead entity activities and what needs to be done and how to fund these activities. They received an update on the Watershed Stewardship Team, it seems to be working in some areas but still having problems in other areas. Ken Bates, WDFW engineer, gave a presentation on the agency's engineering program and services available to lead entities. Jim Kramer briefly introduced ideas on measuring successes; they will go into more detail at their September meeting in Vancouver.

Shirley handed out a SWC newsletter to the Board Members along with an invitation to the Skagit float.

Steve Meyer would like LEAG to look at how lead entities are working with the citizen committees. He also queried what was meant by the LEAG looking at what they should do versus what is statutorily required.

Topic #5: 2001-2003 Biennial Budgets – Capital & Operating

Roles Document: Jim Kramer went through the roles document to help frame up the budget portion of the meeting. The roles discussion was started at the May meeting and continued discussion was held during the June meeting. Jim would like to continue using this document as a draft working document. Staff hopes to reach consensus on this document by the September meeting to be able to use it in legislative and budget requests. Jim went over the document section by section.

Board Roles – John Roskelley would like to see something about using the best science and the technical review teams. Bill Ruckelshaus would like to have the federal government added to "G".

The Chair is encouraging the Board to read this document and get recommended changes to Jim Kramer.

Lead Entity System – Steve Meyer would like to see #A reworded to make it better reflect that lead entities make assurances that the projects they recommend for funding are coordinated with the limiting factors and watershed assessments in the area – not that they coordinate the watershed assessments and limiting factor elements.

State Agency Role – Bill Ruckelshaus asked, "What are the gaps?" He would like to see someone work on finding out what the gaps are. Chair Ruckelshaus would like to see the #2 on the Conservation Commission become more proactive and less reactive. John Roskelley thinks WDFW should also include enforcement activities into their roles – this should be included in all agencies that have regulatory mandates – since several agencies have regulatory mandates – Jim Kramer will add a separate header for enforcement the same as he did for science. Jerry Alb would like to add on the WSDOT list of roles – mitigation consultation on permitting process for federal DOT and NMFS and to add that WSDOT is the largest research entity in culvert development and road construction. Jim Kramer will look for ways to include AFW in the document. Chair Ruckelshaus would like to have a list of all the natural resource agencies and

what their roles are so we can see how they are critical to the Board's success. Need to coordinate efforts with state agencies.

Laura Johnson and Debra Wilhelmi presented budget information to the Board. They explained this is not the final version of the budget since things will change over the next several months as agencies work with the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and coordinate efforts through the Joint Natural Resource Cabinet. The Board needs to decide how to continue with coordination and changes. One suggestion is to have a smaller workgroup for staff to call for advice. The Board decided to set up a small group, Chair will appoint.

Public Testimony:

Milo J Kippen: Commenting on ADA issues and the need to make sure access is available for fishing. It's important not to just save fish, also need to have access for fishers

Capital Budget: As the Board discussed at the last meeting, the focus of the capital budget should be on those issues that the Board needs to do in order to be successful and to address gaps. At the last meeting, staff identified several potential capital budget request items for the Board's consideration. The staff further refined the issues raised and brought three specific items before the Board:

- Salmon grants
- Regional incentives
- Monitoring strategy development

Salmon Grants – Board discussion:

Based on the amount of funding requested by lead entities and appropriations during the current biennium. The Board concurred to request \$37 million in state funds and \$36 million in federal funds for a total of \$73 million.

Regional Incentives – Board discussion:

Although the Board agrees with the concept of a salmon recovery regional approach to planning and project prioritization, it did not want to add another layer of complexity to the lead entity system at this time. The Governor's Salmon Recovery Strategy requires salmon recovery regions to develop a regional salmon recovery plan and coordinate salmon recovery activities at the regional level. WDFW has statutory authority to fund lead entity groups. To better define what is meant by a regional approach, WDFW and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office will work together to develop some options and report back to the Board at a future meeting. The Board will not request funding to support regional efforts at this time.

Statewide Monitoring Strategy – Board discussion:

One of the Board's priorities is to support high quality, standardized, statewide monitoring. Staff recommended the Board seek funding to develop a statewide monitoring strategy. The Board agrees with the need for a statewide monitoring plan but does not feel it is the Board's responsibility to develop the plan; this should be done

by the agencies. The Board will request a \$1 million placeholder for development of a monitoring plan.

John Roskelley made the **motion** to approve revised Resolution #2000-04, Capital Budget Request, requesting \$73 million for salmon grants and a placeholder of \$1 million for development of a monitoring plan, and adding a paragraph supporting regionalization but not seeking funds for the incentives, and \$11,200,000 in Hatchery Reform Grants. Jim Peters **seconded** the motion, Board **approved** unanimously.

Operating Budget: The operating budget supports Board member travel and compensation and staff and office costs. The SRFB operating budget is a portion of the IAC's overall operating budget. The operating budget is based on maintaining the current SRFB-related operations; it does not propose any increases in staff or other new operational expenses.

The proposed operating budget for the SRFB for the next biennium is \$2.02 million. In addition, the following operating budget decision items were presented to the Board for discussion:

- Salmon Habitat Funding Reporting and Coordination Database (per RCW)
- Technical panel and evaluation team support
- Other

The Board approved requesting maintenance-level operational costs, the Salmon Habitat Funding Reporting and Coordination Database, and the technical panel and evaluation team support. John Roskelley made the **motion** to approve Resolution #2000-05. Larry Cassidy **seconded** the motion, Board **approved**.

Public Testimony – New lead entity introduction:

David Hoopes is the new San Juan County Lead Entity Coordinator. They are waiting for the final signed contract from WDFW.

Topic #6: Technical Panel Appointment

Panel members have not been confirmed yet. USFWS, NMFS, Con. Com. and WDFW have committed to providing members for this effort. Staff is still working with other groups to get the 6-8 people needed. So far none of the groups have asked for payment. Jim Kramer has gotten several names from the private sector but doesn't have commitments yet. Jim requested the Board appoint a sub-committee to help with the finalization of the panel and assist during August prior to the September meeting.

John Roskelley feels the private sector members should be paid for their services.

Public Testimony:

Heather Killian, Policy Fellow for Friends of the Earth – urged the SRFB to include private sector members on the technical review panel.

Topic #7: Second Round 2000 Grant Cycle – Remaining Issues

Second Round Grant Cycle – Laura reviewed changes to manual 18 and requested approval by the Board.

John Roskelley made the **motion** to approve manual 18 with noted editorial changes to pages 17-23. Jim Peters **seconded**, motion **passed**.

Topic #8: Legislative Preview

The Board will be discussing legislative issues at future meetings. John Roskelley would like to see an agricultural representative on this Board. Board comments supported funding of enforcement for WDFW.

Topic #9: Partner Agency Reports

Steve Meyer, Conservation Commission, handed out a written report on Commission Activities Relative to Salmon Recovery. He plans to give a more detailed oral report in September or October on the status of limiting factors analysis reports.

Laura gave an overview of the tour planned for July 13, in conjunction with the IAC committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at about 5:30 p.m.

SRFB APPROVAL:

William Ruckelshaus, Chair

Date

Future Meetings: September 14-15, 2000 – Vancouver, Water Resources Center
 October 30-31, 2000 – Clarkston, Quality Inn
 November 30 – December 1, 2000 – Olympia, 172 NRB

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